

War, Inflation Nixon's Top Problems

WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS., — President Nixon will take over in January in a continuing national and international "state of siege." His major legacy from the outgoing Administration will be Vietnam, a militarily resurgent Russia, inflation, and a dollar that is not yet "out of the woods."

WAR AND PEACE
Much of the difficulty in which the United States finds itself today, both at home and abroad, can be laid squarely on the doorstep of a terrible error in national policy. The great mistake was the belief that we could fight a war in Southeast Asia and conduct "business as usual" elsewhere. The result was an immensely unpopular conflict and the setting in motion of a massive inflationary wave. The effects of both tragedies will continue to scourge our people

with social divisiveness and economic inequalities for an untold length of time.

Recession Pockets — Peace will not come in Vietnam like the dropping of a curtain. The incoming Administration does not intend to surrender. Hence, the path to peace will be tortuous and, at times, seem without end. But, even though fighting may flare now and then, the consumption of the hardware of death will be considerably less in 1969 than in 1968. This will apply particularly to standard items that are burned up rapidly during heavy and widespread attack and counterattack. As a result, Babson's Reports looks for those concerns and areas that have been heavily committed to the making of bombs, shells, small arms, light ammo, etc., to suffer a slump in business vol-

ume and employment as the year wears along.

Boom Spots Too — But, if we may need fewer bombs and less TNT, we shall surely have a lot of work to do in order to catch up in modern weaponry. For while we have been tied down in Vietnam, we have been neglecting our defense posture elsewhere . . . especially the application of the most up-to-date research and development. 1969 will not feel the full impact of the coming arms catchup; but it will see a strong beginning. Emphasis will be on silent submarines, lasers for use with both offensive and defensive weaponry, much more highly sophisticated computerized control of short-and long-range missiles, deployment of the latest IBM system, greater versatility and mobility in battlefield nuclear "artillery," a completely new

tank fleet, another generation of manned attack fighters and bombers, etc. It will all add up to greater spending on new armament than to real saving on cutbacks in the older types.

Note, too, that the stress will be on expensive technological devices . . . requiring highly skilled management and labor.

Space Revival — We have made great strides in space penetration . . . despite our occupation with the jungles and swamps of Southeast Asia. Yet, our progress has lacked the impetus of the early years after Sputnik. Just now, recurring reports indicate a real likelihood that Russia will score a significant "space spectacular" . . . probably sometime soon. Should this be the case, we foresee a new surge of spending on more massive boosters and on more refined vehicles . . . both man-

ned and unmanned. Again, observe that the big need will be for skilled men and highly complicated machines.

Russia Resurgent — The Russian Bear is no longer emitting friendly grunts of detente. Thoroughly aroused by near-revolution on his very doorstep — and the gateway to his heartland — by the Czech stirrings for freedom in the summer of 1968, he will not risk any "repeat performance" in 1969. It will be the "hard line" for the Kremlin throughout the coming year; and the Nixon Administration will be shoved off balance many a time. Most ominous is the powerful strengthening of the Soviet Mediterranean fleet; for there it is in direct contact with American and other NATO warships. Once more, it will be a case of urgent defense needs taking precedence over pressing

social demands. The issue of "guns or butter" will persist throughout 1969. Too much attention to either or both could well lead to a price-wage spiral in our economy . . . with all the threat of a deflationary plunge thereafter.

INFLATION STILL INCUBATING

1968 will go down in economic histories as "the year of the great boo-boo." Early it was recognized that the economy was overheating . . . that a cooling off was necessary to prevent runaway price boosts and the inevitable aftermath of recession. The government opted for a fiscal "wet blanket" to smother the inflationary fires . . . and belatedly the surtax on personal and corporate incomes was enacted, effective mid 1968.

But the boom rolled on . . . confounding both the Federal

Reserve — the country's money managers — and the President's Council of Economic Advisers. What happened? Two things: (1) The Fed thought the surtax would cause "overkill" in business, so opened the money spigots wider . . . stimulating buying just when the tax was supposed to depress it; (2) Mr. and Mrs. J.Q. Public sharply cut their rate of savings and went on a buying binge . . . augmenting their fling with big gobs of borrowed money.

More to Come — So, here we are: Months after the "tax to kill inflation," prices of goods and services are still spiraling upward. This, of course, goads the workingman to support his labor boss when he demands outside hikes in pay and benefits. Even though the Fed now gives signs of having moved to

(Continued on Page A-5)

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INSIDE TODAY

Ann LandersA-5 ObituariesB-4
Church NewsA-3 SportsB-3
Count MarcoA-5 Women's NewsB-1
EditorialsA-4 Want AdsB-4

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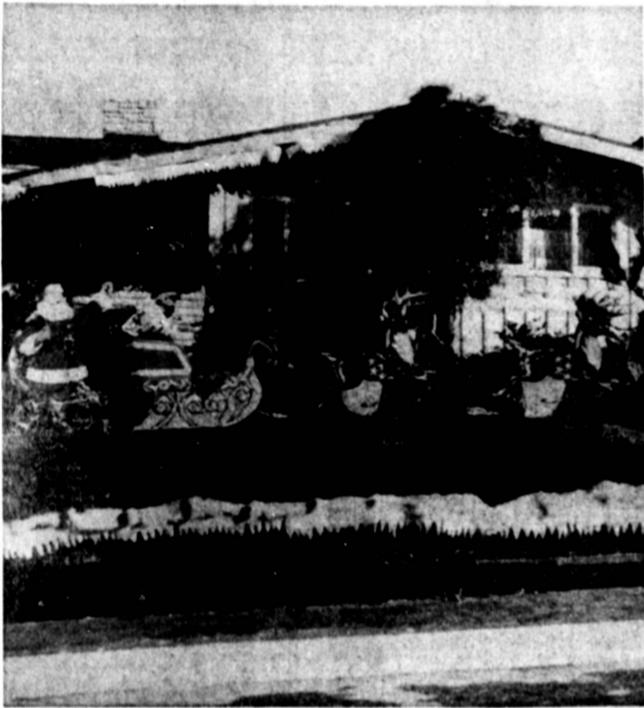


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TOP HONORS . . . The Vincent Metzger home at 326 Camino de las Collinas, shown here, won the sweepstakes award in the annual Riviera Homeowners Association home decorations contest. Second place in the grand prize competition was awarded to Sam Whitson of 336 Calle Mayor and third place was won by Ralph Brogdon of 330 Camino de las Collinas. (Press-Herald Photo)

Gunman Escapes in Parking Lot Chase

Man Flees in Stolen Auto; Victims Safe

A young man escaped from security guards at Bullock's Del Amo Thursday afternoon after a Torrance man he forced to drive him away bailed out of the moving vehicle.

Torrance police are seeking the young man on charges of armed robbery, assault, forgery, kidnapping, and auto theft. One shot was fired during the incident, but apparently no one was hit.

POLICE SAID the parking lot chase began in the luggage department of the Del Amo Center

store about 4 p.m. Thursday when the suspect attempted to make a purchase with a credit card believed stolen from a San Pedro couple.

A security guard in the luggage department called another guard, John L. Renk, to detain the young man. When Renk approached the suspect, a scuffle ensued and the young man pulled a pistol from his waistband.

He then forced Renk to lead him from the store.

ONCE IN the parking lot, the suspect began running between parked cars. Renk pulled his own gun and gave chase.

The security guard finally halted the fleeing man, but at that point a 36-year-old Torrance man and his wife got out of their station wagon. The suspect grabbed the Torrance man.

The suspect forced the man back into his car, then got in himself. At that point, Renk fired one shot from his revolver. The shot smashed through the rear window of the station wagon and the suspect ducked to the floorboard, ordering the captive driver to "Get me out of here, hurry."

AS THE car rolled forward, the hostage open the door and rolled out. The young suspect then fled in the station wagon, a metallic blue 1964 model.

The hostage sustained a hip injury as he rolled out of the vehicle. Renk suffered a laceration on his scalp during the altercation inside the store.

Police said the gunman was dressed in light clothing, was about 5'-7" and "very slender." He wore a "Lincoln-type" beard and goatee.

Refinery Fire Victim Dies

A Carson man injured last Sunday in an explosion at a Wilmington refinery died Christmas Day.

Dead is Raymond Danes, 35, of 278 E. 214th St. Danes died at 9:50 p.m. Wednesday in a Long Beach hospital. He was injured last Sunday when an explosion in a cracking tower at the Texaco Oil Co. refinery touched off a flash fire.



FOR THE NEEDY . . . Members of the Torrance Jaycees display some of the Christmas gifts they distributed Christmas Eve to six Torrance area families whose Christmas might otherwise have been very bleak. A total of 27 youngsters enjoyed unwrapping gifts Christmas Day because of the annual Jaycee project to aid needy families in the city. Displaying the gifts are (from left) Phil Scafer, external vice president; Dennis O'Neill, chairman of the Needy Family project; and Dan Azavedo, who served as co-chairman of the project. To provide the gifts, the Jaycees, auxiliary to the Jaycees, raised \$250. Local markets provided discounts for the project. (Press-Herald photo)

Youths Still in Hospital

Four youths involved in an auto collision Christmas Day remain hospitalized, one in serious condition.

Injured when their sportscar smashed into a light standard were Lee David Hamilton, 20, of 25307 Narbonne Ave., Lomita; Thomas E. Freese, 22, of 24065 Ocean Ave.; Alexander R. Franjose, 22, of 601 Camino de Encanto, Redondo Beach; and Bruce Lotz, 21, of San Diego.

Hamilton is listed in critical condition; Freese and Franjose are fair, and Lotz is in good condition. All were rushed to South Bay Hospital for treatment.

The four were injured while apparently trying to elude a police car. Police said the sportscar ran a stop sign at a high rate of speed and continued on to ram the light standard on the Esplanade near Vista Del Mar in Redondo Beach.

Police are not certain who was driving. However, the car is registered under Franjose's name, police said.

Patrolmen said the car reached speeds of to 100-miles-per-hour during the chase.



TOP CARRIERS . . . Six Press-Herald carrier boys are a little richer this month as a result of their efforts at getting new subscribers. Awarded prizes ranging from \$2 to \$10 in cash were (front, from left) Steve Alverson, 11; Bob Stoltz, 10; and Steve Morrison, 12; and (back, from left) Paul McKennon, 12; Philip Allen, 10; and Karl Konrad, 12. The top six youngsters each drew a wallet which contained an unknown amount of cash and Alverson, who gained the most new Press-Herald customers during the month, came up with the top prize of \$10—in addition to the new wallet. (Press-Herald photo)

Gary Rippstein

Colleagues Saw Him as 'Idealistic Young Man'

Torrance policemen who knew the late Officer Gary Rippstein saw him as a totally idealistic young man whose religious faith pervaded every aspect of his life.

The 29-year-old police detective was buried today following funeral rites attended by hundreds of friends, fellow policemen and city and county officials. He died Sunday from a bullet wound sustained while making an arrest.

"Gary had too much faith and trust in his fellow man, whether he was a law-abiding citizen or a convict," said Police Capt. John Maestri. "He was a wonderful kid."

THE SLAIN police chaplain was an easy-going fellow who made every effort to under-

stand and help others, in words of Detective Don Flaherty, who attended the police academy with Rippstein.

"Gary was very naive about life and what people would and could do to the human body," Flaherty said. "He didn't believe people could hurt a human body the way they do. The harsh side of life was something new to him because of the way he had been brought up, in religious environment."

"Gary always wanted to do good for everybody," Flaherty continued. "He was most interested in rehabilitating the lawbreaker, in finding out why people did what they did."

IN THE case of juvenile offenders, Flaherty said, Rippstein avoided an arrest when-

ever possible. Instead, he would go to the young person's home and have an extended talk with his parents.

Rippstein would frequently engage others in friendly debate, Flaherty recalled, trying to convince them of the existence of a Supreme Being, but he would never try to force his Mormon beliefs on other people.

When confronted by his suspected slayer, Rippstein attempted to talk the suspect airplane embezzler into putting down his weapon. "If it had been someone other than that particular suspect," Flaherty said, "Gary might have talked him into dropping the gun."

RIPPSTEIN'S police partner, Detective Harold Maestri, de-

(See Officer, Page B-4)